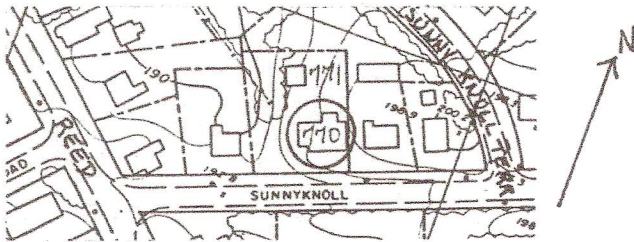


FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

0071000045

Boston N.

770, 771

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address ⁹ / Sunny Knoll Ave.

renumbered

Historic Name Brooks/Gorman House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1876

Source Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Entry moved (date unknown)

Side and rear additions (dates unknown)

Condition Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 0.3 A.

Setting On a quiet side street in a neighborhood of 19th-century houses

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) April 1998

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

7 Sunny Knoll Ave. (MHC #770) is a well-preserved example of a front-gabled Italianate farmhouse in Lexington that still has its associated barn. The house is rectangular, 2½ stories, two-by-two bays, and front-gabled with a side chimney. It is set on a granite foundation, clad with wood clapboards, and roofed with asphalt shingles. On the west elevation is a three-by-one bay two-story side-gabled addition on a fieldstone foundation. At the rear of the main block is a one-story shed-roofed addition and at the rear of the side addition is a one-story flat-roofed addition. The main entry has been moved from the facade to an enclosed porch on a concrete foundation in the front reentrant angle; windows are 2/2 double hung sash. Italianate finishes include window heads with projecting molded cornices, three-sided one-story bays with paneling underneath the windows on the front and east elevations, and similar paneling underneath the replacement window in the original doorway, which is still marked by its side pilasters. The 1½-story front-gabled two-by-two-bay barn (MHC #771) is set on a fieldstone foundation, clad with wood clapboards, and has a garage door.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house was built in 1876 by a Samuel Brooks of East Bethel, Vermont, and Albert P. Paine of Randolph, Vermont. Brooks and Paine apparently built the house as a speculative venture, for in February 1876 they had purchased a seven-acre parcel from an Orrin Douglass of Boston and in May sold back about an acre of it, which by then included this house, to Douglass' wife. The Douglasses apparently rented out the house and so did the next owner, a woman who lived in Boston and bought the property in 1879. In 1893 the house was sold to Daniel A. Gorman, a farmer; he did live in the house and continued to do so even after he built the one now at 45 Reed St. in 1901.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Lexington Valuation Lists. 1875-1878, 1892-1909.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Plans. Cambridge, MA. 1384: 176; 1409: 215; 1524: 433; 2215: 328; Pl. Bk. 332, Pl. 28.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
Lexington

Property Address
9 / Sunny Knoll Ave.
Area(s) Form No.

770, 771



Roll #8, Negative #9

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
28 MERIAM ST.

Area(s) Form No.

H

385

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Like many of our new houses, this one cannot be classified as any particular style of architecture. The strongest suggestion it makes in this line is that it represents what the "Arts and Crafts" movement stands for. The contractor was T. H. O'Connor and the house is a compliment to his skill and ingenuity in carrying out the clever plans of the architect. The fire places (and there are a number of them), are simple, yet dignified in design. Gruby tiling has been used in part as facings. The leaded glass work is likewise commendable. Space has been utilized to the best advantage, as is instanced by a finely equipped toilette room, also a room for disposing of outside wraps, both of which occupy space under the staircase. The entrance to these rooms is reached by two sunken steps, which gives picturesqueness and yet secures a certain privacy which is desirable. One ought to be happy and comfortable at "Ogeedankee".

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The property was still owned by Fred and Sylvia Brown in 1942. It was sold by Lauriston MacKenzie to Kenneth and Dorothy Bolles in 1950. Kenneth Bolles sold the house to the present owners, Henry and Carol Reiling, in 1977.

In 1982 the carriage house historically associated with this property was renovated and subdivided from the original property. It is now 32 Edgewood Road (MHC #608).

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, April 30, 1907.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
U.S. Census Records, 1900-1930.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
June 2009